



# St. James United Church

## Celebrating 110 Years!

### An Affirming Ministry

Weekly Service Bulletin – February 11th, 2018

### *Black History Month / Celebration of Love!*

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*Living fully, intentionally and compassionately*

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## **PRELUDE / WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE / INTROIT**

### **WE GATHER**

#### **\*GATHERING SONG** *We Are Marching* (A traditional South African song - 20th Century) **VU#646**

Words, Music: South African traditional song, 20th century. Translation, Arrangement: © 1984 Walton Music Corporation.

1. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.  
(the light of God.)  
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)  
oo-oo, (marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)  
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)  
oo-oo, (marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.

#### **CALL TO CELEBRATION** (responsive)

One: We are called from all corners of the world, to come home to belong.

**All: God's love embraces all of us.**

**We are one in God.**

**We are thankful for God's faithfulness and justice.**

One: Wherever we are, whoever we are, God welcomes us.

**All: We are thankful to be called to God's ministry,  
to live and do God's work with the mind of Jesus.**

One: We are called to serve.

May all we do be done for love.

During our celebration of Black History month

we are called to embody justice, peace and reconciliation.

**All: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.**

#### **OPENING PRAYER** (responsive)

One: God of love, peace, and unity,  
we thank you for welcoming us all;

**All: for creating all of us in your image;**

One: and for giving us the blessings of community.

**All: We pray that you guide us to be people of faith, hope and love.**

One: May we bring peace to all creation.

We ask this through Jesus our brother - whose prayer we now say together.

Amen.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*spoken in unison*)

**VU#921**

**\*HYMN** *In Loving Partnership We Come*

**VU#603**

Words, Music: Jim Strathdee 1982 © 1983 Desert Flower Music. Used by permission.

1. In loving partnership we come, seeking, O God, your will to do.  
Our prayers and actions now receive; we freely offer them to you.
2. We are the hands and feet of Christ, serving by grace each other's need.  
We dare to risk and sacrifice with truthful word and faithful deed.
3. Loving community we seek; your hope and strength within us move.  
The poor and rich, the strong and weak are brought together in your love.
4. In loving partnership, O God, help us your future to proclaim.  
Justice and peace be our desire, we humbly pray in Jesus' name.

**SWEETHEART OF ST. JAMES**

**THEME CONVERSATION** - *Video: Love Lesson | Life's Big Questions Unscripted*

**CHILDREN'S PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the light of the world. Fill my mind with your peace, and my heart with your love. Amen.

**SERVICE OF INSTALLATION & PRESENTATION OF UCW LIFE MEMBERSHIP PIN**

**WE REFLECT**

**POEM**

*Touched By an Angel by Maya Angelou*

*Nancy Sutherland*

We, unaccustomed to courage  
exiles from delight  
live coiled in shells of loneliness  
until love leaves its high holy temple  
and comes into our sight  
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives  
and in its train come ecstasies  
old memories of pleasure  
ancient histories of pain.  
Yet if we are bold,

love strikes away the chains of fear  
from our souls

We are weaned from our timidity  
In the flush of love's light  
we dare be brave  
And suddenly we see  
that love costs all we are  
and will ever be.  
Yet it is only love  
which sets us free

**EPISTLE READING**

*1 Corinthians 13*

*Nancy Sutherland*

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**\*HYMN**

*Love Is the Touch*

**MV#89**

Words: Alison M. Robertson, 1998 Music: John L. Bell, 1998

1. Love is the touch of intangible joy;  
love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.
2. Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;  
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.
3. Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
love is the will to be whole once again;

love is the trust of a friend on the road:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

4. Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;  
love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
love is the path which the saints all have trod:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

## REFLECTION

### WE RESPOND

## OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

### **\*SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *What Can I Do?*

**MV#191**

Words and music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy, arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005.

**What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy, I'll say a prayer. I bring my love. I'll do my share.**

### **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### WE GO FORTH

### **\*HYMN** *Take Time to Be Holy*

**VU#672**

Words: William D. Longstaff. Music: George C. Stebbins.

1. Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;  
abide in him always, and feed on his word.  
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,  
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.
2. Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,  
and run not before him, whatever betide.  
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,  
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.
3. Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,  
each thought and each motive beneath his control.  
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,  
you soon shall be fitted for service above.

### **\*BLESSING**

### **\*SUNG BLESSING** *You Are Holy* (The Zulu text means "Go/Walk/Travel with us, our Liberator.) **MV#45**

Words and music: traditional song, South Africa. English paraphrase and arrangement: More Voices, 2007

**You are holy, you show us the way, you are holy, you show us the way. X2**

**You show us, you show us, you show us the way, X4**

## POSTLUDE